

REMARKS

By this amendment, Claims 7, 14, 23, 26, and 29 have been amended. Claims 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, and 31 have been cancelled. Hence, Claims 1-23, 26, and 29 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims as indicated herein do not add any new matter to this application. Furthermore, amendments made to the claims as indicated herein have been made to exclusively improve readability and clarity of the claims and not for the purpose of overcoming alleged prior art.

Each issue raised in the Office Action mailed June 16, 2004 is addressed hereinafter.

I. PROVISIONAL ELECTION

The Office Action asserted a restriction requirement, identified claims in groups I, II, and III, labeled Invention I, II, and III, respectively, and required election among one of the asserted groups. Applicants provisionally elect Invention I for examination, with traverse.

II. TRAVERSAL

In this reply Applicants have amended the claims by changing dependencies so that the application presents one independent method-type claim (Claim 1) and all the other method-type claims (Claims 1-22) depend from Claim 1. Further, Claims 23, 26, and 29 correspond in scope to Claims 1-22, although Claims 23, 26, and 29 are presented in computer-readable medium format and apparatus format, respectively. Therefore, all claims relate to a single invention and are properly prosecuted together.

Applicants note that the grouping of claims in the restriction requirement of the Office Action is organized according to the independent method claims as originally filed. Thus, the claims as amended herein all fall within Invention I as asserted in the Office Action. In technical terms, all the method claims now recite the steps of creating and binding pointers in documents, and therefore all the method claims relate to Data Processing: Presentation Processing of Document-Structured Document, classified in class 715, subclass 513.

III. CONCLUSIONS & MISCELLANEOUS


The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If applicable, a law firm check for the petition for extension of time fee and all applicable extra claim fees is enclosed herewith. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

On July 13, 2004

By



Teresa Austin